

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	DOCKET NO. WRU-03-54-977
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**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR WAIVER**

(Issued September 19, 2003)

On August 19, 2003, Tri-County Electric Cooperative (Tri-County) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for waiver of 199 IAC 20.18(5)"b" and 20.18(8). These rules require electric utilities with fewer than 50,000 Iowa customers to maintain, among other things, certain outage information and to adopt and file a reliability plan. No objections to the request for waiver were filed.

In support of its request, Tri-County stated that it primarily does business in the state of Minnesota and that it has only 116 members in Iowa. Tri-County said it had no employees or offices in Iowa. Tri-County noted that it is an all-requirements wholesale customer of Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland), a generation and transmission cooperative. Dairyland filed a reliability report with the Board on August 28, 2003, and Tri-County said this report addresses the reliability requirements for transmission and generation used to serve Dairyland's customers, including Tri-County. Tri-County maintained that requiring it to file a separate report

for such a small group of customers would increase administrative costs without any substantial member benefits.

Based on the information provided by Tri-County, application of the rules would pose an undue hardship on Tri-County without any substantial corresponding benefit. The small number of customers in Iowa makes the data maintenance and reporting requirements burdensome, particularly when most of the required information is in Dairyland's report. The standards contained in 199 IAC 1.3 have been met and the Board will grant the waiver.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

The request for waiver of 199 IAC 20.18(5)"b" and 20.18(8) filed by Tri-County Electric Cooperative on August 19, 2003, is granted.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003.